

rather unusual yet popular way the more striking features of their probable development." The chapter headings are too numerous to quote in full, but the following will give an idea of the style of treatment: I, A bird's forefathers; II, How did the birds first fly, perhaps? V, The cut of a bird's frock; VI, About a bird's underwear; VII, A bird's outer wrap; VIII, A bird's new suit; IX, 'Putting on Paints and Frills' among the birds; XI, War and weapons among birds; XIV, Freaks of bachelors and benedicts in feathers; XXIII, Tools and tasks among birds; XXV, A little talk on birds' toes; XXVIII, What a bird knows about geography and arithmetic; XXX, A bird's modern kinsfolk.

Mr. Baskett has treated the various topics relating to birds,—their structure, functions and various adaptations,—in a manner likely to interest the general reader, and for the most part has shown a creditable familiarity with his subject. He has, however, a predilection for hypothesis, and thinks every fact relating to habit or structure should be accounted for, and that even a poor theory is better than no theory at all. A good square admission that there are still some things we do not know is not to be tolerated. In the main, however, our author may be taken as a safe leader, and his little book should do much toward enlightening the general reader about birds and their relation to their surroundings. The last 20 pages consist of notes on birds as seen 'Through the Window Pane' of the author's study. The illustrations are largely from Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America,' to which they are duly credited in the Publishers' Note.—J. A. A.

Chapman's 'Bird-Life', Colored Edition.—In the new edition of Chapman's 'Bird-Life' (see Auk, XIV, July 1897, pp. 336-339) the text has been revised, and the size of the book increased to a full octavo, and the plates enlarged and beautifully reproduced in colors, adding greatly to the value of the work as an aid to the identification of the 100 species thus figured. The publication of 'Bird-Life' in its present form thus well meets the demand for a popular work on our common birds, illustrated with colored plates, at a reasonable price.—J. A. A.

Montgomery's List of the Birds of West Chester, Chester Co., Pa.<sup>1</sup>—This is a carefully annotated list of 145 species observed in the immediate vicinity of West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, during the years 1885-91, and 1895-97. Most of the observations were made within an area of only five miles' radius from West Chester, and no species is included in the list which was not either taken by the author or seen by him in the

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<sup>1</sup> A List of the Birds of the Vicinity of West Chester, Chester Co., Pennsylvania. By Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr., Ph. D. American Naturalist, 1897, pp. 622-628, 812-814, 907-911.

flesh. For many of the migratory species detailed records are given of the spring arrivals. The list is thus a welcome addition to an exact knowledge of bird distribution in Pennsylvania. — J. A. A.

**Grinnell on the Birds of Santa Barbara, San Nicolas and San Clemente Islands, California.**<sup>1</sup> — This 'Report' forms the first of a series of papers giving the results of the work of a scientific exploring party to the southern Santa Barbara Islands, sent out by the Pasadena Academy of Sciences, in charge of Mr. Grinnell, and mainly through the generosity of Mr. Halett C. Merritt. It also is noteworthy as forming the first brochure of this young Academy. Mr. Grinnell was assisted in his ornithological work by Mr. Horace Gaylord. The report is based on the field notes of the party and on a collection of 450 birds' skins and many eggs, and consists of four separate lists, as follows: (1) 'The Land-Birds observed [May 13-18] on Santa Barbara Island,' numbering 14 species; (2) 'Land-Birds observed [May 19-26] on San Nicolas Islands,' numbering 9 species; (3) 'Land-Birds observed [May 29-June 7] on San Clemente Island,' numbering 25 species; (4) 'Entire list of Water-Birds observed,' numbering 24 species. These lists are quite fully annotated, and give much interesting information regarding the breeding habits of many of the species observed. One new species (*Pipilo clemente* Grinnell, described in this journal (Vol. XIV, p. 294), was secured, and it is suggested that the Rock Wren observed on San Nicolas Island is worthy of separation from the mainland bird "as a new species." The trip was made during the interval from May 11 to June 9, but the birds observed on a previous trip to San Clemente, March 26 to April 4, are also included. The notes on several of the Water Birds are of special interest. — J. A. A.

**Publications Received.** — Allen, Francis H. *Nature's Diary*. 12mo, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York, 1897. Price, \$1.25.

**Baskett, John Newton.** *The Story of the Birds*. 12mo, pp. 263. D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1897. Price, 65 cts. net.

**Blanchan, Neltje.** *Bird Neighbors*. Roy. 8vo, pp. 233, 50 col. pll. Doubleday & McClure Co., New York, 1897. Price, \$2.00

**Chapman, Frank M.** *Bird-Life*. Edition in Colors. 8vo, pp. xvi + 195, 75 col. plates. D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1898. Price, \$5.00.

**Cory, C. B.** *How to Know the Ducks, Geese and Swans*. Sm. 4to, pp. 95. Illustrated. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1897.

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<sup>1</sup>Report on the Birds recorded during a visit to the Islands of Santa Barbara, San Nicolas and San Clemente, in the spring of 1897. By Joseph Grinnell. 'Publication No. 1' of the Pasadena (California) Academy of Sciences. 8vo, pp. 26. August, 1897.